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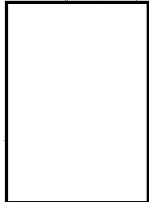
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SOVIET MINISTERIAL FIRINGS

- I. The dismissal of A. I. Kozlov, Minister of State Farms - (one of three ministries in agricultural field) - a career agricultural worker, appears largely attributable to Khrushchev's personal influence but probably also reflects dissatisfaction with the Ministry of State Farms.

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Kozlov's relations with Khrushchev

have been very bad. Khrushchev has criticized him continually, accusing him of "stupidity" in February 1954.

- B. Kozlov's career brought him into close contact with Malenkov, with whom he was reportedly very friendly.

- II. I. A. Benediktov's transfer from USSR Minister of Agriculture to USSR Minister of State Farms may also represent a demotion, although state farms are playing an important role in current agricultural

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A. Benediktov also has been criticized by Khrushchev, and his transfer may well be designed to place someone more capable in Khrushchev's eyes into the position of Minister of Agriculture.

II. The dismissal for "unsatisfactory work" of A. F. Zasyadko as Minister of the Coal Industry (one of four ministries in fuel field) and the appointment of one of his former deputies, A. N. Zademidko, to the position of Minister may reflect dissatisfaction with the Ministry's previous failures to reduce cost and open up new mines, even though ministry has fulfilled output plan in recent years.

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